

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13209 290909Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04

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P 290838Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 608

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: CHERRIES

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING LATE FRIDAY BETWEEN MAF OFFICIALS AND AGATTACHE TO FOLLOW UP ON CHERRY ISSUE, DIR-GEN HORIKAWA GAVE VERBAL COUNTER PROPOSAL TO U.S. POSITION OUTLINED DURING USDA/MAF SESSIONS ON AUG. 8-9. COUNTER PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR BEGINNING INSPECTION DATE OF JULY 1 AND NOT REPEAT NOT JULY 1 ENTRY DATE AND DOES NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF QUANTITIES TO BE SHIPPED. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SOMEWHAT LENGTHY LEAD-IN DISCUSSION OF DIFFICULTIES FACED BY MAF INCLUDING DIET AND GROWER PRESSURE, HORIKAWA MADE FOLLOWING COUNTER PROPOSAL: (A) INSPECTION FOR SHIPMENT BEGIN ON JULY 1 RATHER THAN A JULY 1 JAPAN ENTRY DATE, (B) METHODS OF SHIPMENT (SURFACE OR AIR) WOULD BE EXPORTER'S OPTION. WITH REGARD TO QUANTITIES HORIKAWA REQUESTED ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES THAT WOULD LIKELY MOVE FROM U.S. AFTER JULY 1 INSPECTION DATE IMPLYING THAT SPECIFIC QUANTITIES WOULD NOT BE SET BY MAF BUT THAT ORDERLY MARKETING MUST BE MAINTAINED. UPON FURTHER

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13209 290909Z

QUESTIONING, HOWEVER, HORIKAWA GAVE EQUIVOCAL ANSWER THAT WHILE MAF MIGHT NOT RESTRICT QUANTITIES, IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT A FLOOD ON THE MARKET AND THAT HE DOUBTED THAT PRESSURE GROUPS WOULD STAND FOR SHIPMENTS TOTALING AS MUCH AS 1,000 MT IN JULY.

3. AGATTACHE POINTED OUT THAT COUNTER-PROPOSAL FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE U.S. POSITION DISCUSSED IN TOKYO AUG 8-9. I.E., JULY 1

ENTRY AND UNLIMITED QUANTITIES. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT FOR SURFACE SHIPMENTS, THE INSPECTION DATE BEGINNING JULY 1 WOULD RESULT IN AN ENTRY DATE SOMETIME AFTER JULY 10, WHICH THE U.S. HAS ALREADY INDICATED AS BEING UNACCEPTABLE. WHILE AIR SHIPMENT ARRIVALS WOULD BE FASTER, THEY INCUR SIZE AND COST LIMITATIONS AND WOULD UNLIKELY PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL VOLUME OF BUSINESS. THE NEED WAS AGAIN EMPHASIZED FOR AN EXPORT PROGRAM THAT WOULD JUSTIFY IN TERMS OF SHIPPING SEASON AND QUANTITIES, THE HIGH U.S. RESEARCH COST AND PLANT AND EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT REQUIRED BY MAF REGULATIONS.

4. WHILE HORIKAWA APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN, HE IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE AS EVIDENCED BY A NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT IN THE JAPANESE PRESS, AND RELUCTANT TO SHOW HIS HAND ON QUANTITIES. HE STATED THAT HE HOPES TO SET UP A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE SOONER THE HEARING IS HELD, THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO REACH A SOLUTION AND, THEREFORE, HOPES FOR AN EARLY U.S. RESPONSE TO COUNTER-PROPOSAL. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE KEPT ON MAF/USDA BASIS. OTHERWISE, GROWERS AND DIET REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT SEE ANY AGREEMENT ON CHERRY ISSUE AS A SACRIFICE OF LOCAL GROWERS BY GOJ TO REDRESS JAPAN'S TRADE SURPLUS WITH U.S.

5. REQUEST FAS/W REACTION TO ABOVE COUNTER-PROPOSAL AND GUI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 13209 290909Z

DANCE IN OFFICIALLY RESPONDING TO MAF OFFICIALS.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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